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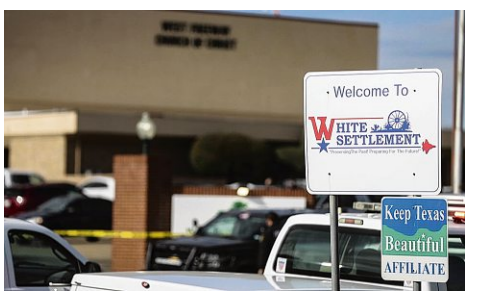

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Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Trinity Episcopal cancels service after priest tests positive

BY NICHOLE MANNA
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FORT WORTH

Trinity Episcopal Church has canceled its Sunday service and closed its building after a priest tested presumptive positive for a case of COVID-19, or coronavirus.

Father Robert Pace is the first known case of coronavirus in Tarrant County. Pace attended the The Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes annual conference Feb. 19-22 in Louisville, Kentucky.

His wife, who is the early childhood and lower school chaplain for All Saints' Episcopal School of Fort Worth, has tested negative but will remain in self-quarantine at home for 14 days. Pace is hospitalized in

SEE PRIEST, 4A

TCU extends break, shifts to online classes

BY JACK HOWLAND
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FORT WORTH

TCU is extending its spring break before all in-person classes will shift online over concerns of the coronavirus, the college announced Wednesday.

Spring break, originally set to end Monday, will continue through March 20, according to a news release posted on the TCU website. Students will then begin online classes from March 23-April 3.

Faculty members are reportedly using the longer spring break to prepare to move their classes online.

Additionally, the college has already increased its cleaning protocols across campus, a college spokesperson said.

TCU has joined more than 100 colleges across the country that have moved classes online in response to CO-

SEE TCU, 4A

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The Walsh development in far west Fort Worth has noticed no decrease in the number of visitors so far.

Walsh development booming with 388 new homes this year

BY GORDON DICKSON
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FORT WORTH

Fears about coronavirus and the economic downturn aren't stopping home sales in west Fort Worth.

The Walsh development near the Fort Worth-Aledo border is adding 388 new homes this year, said Seth Carpenter, vice president of development at Republic Property Group, the Walsh developer.

The activity in the neighborhood, which today is home to 1,100 people but eventually could be 50,000-strong, is an indication that demand for single-family housing is still high in North Texas, he said.

The homes are part of a new neighborhood known as Lake Park, within the Walsh development. As the name implies, the Lake Park neighborhood abuts a 9-acre lake surrounded by dozens of newly planted mature trees, a dock for kayak launching and playground equipment.

None of the homes under construction in Lake Park actually back up to the lake. That's by design, Carpenter said, so that all residents of the area can access the water and surrounding park space by sidewalks and trails.

"We want people to use the parks to go out and meet their neighbors," Carpenter said.

Real estate professionals at Walsh haven't noticed a decrease in the number of prospective buyers visiting the west Fort Worth development in recent weeks, Carpenter said. Stock markets have experienced steep declines during the past two weeks, and most experts say the main culprit is concern about the coronavirus hampering the movement of people and goods around the world.

But Carpenter said the economic slump could help prospective homebuyers afford their homes. The Federal Reserve earlier this month cut interest rates in an emergency move to support the economy, which Carpenter said could make mortgages more affordable for buyers.

WHO'S BUILDING THE HOMES

Seven builders are putting in homes at Walsh — Britton Homes, David Weekley Homes, Drees Homes, Highland Homes, Perry Homes, Toll Brothers and Village Homes.

The homes will be priced from the $260,000s to $800,000s. Most of the housing is single-family, although there are some "two-pack" and "four-pack" multi-family town homes mixed in.

Walsh straddles the Tarrant County-Parker County line and is within the Aledo school

SEE WALSH, 4A

Teacher says she was fired by Trinity Valley School for comforting family of student

BY KALEY JOHNSON
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A Fort Worth teacher says her school fired her in retaliation for speaking with the parent of a student who said she had been inappropriately touched by another teacher.

Leanna McLaughlin was a history teacher at Trinity Valley School for four years. The position was her dream job, and she left collegiate teaching for the Fort Worth K-12 private school, she said in an interview with the Star-Telegram.

On Wednesday, she filed a lawsuit against the school in Tarrant County. The lawsuit also named Ian Craig, the head of the school, as a defendant. School officials did not immediately respond to requests to comment. The school is on spring break this week.

On Feb. 12, a former student of McLaughlin's told her a teacher touched her inappropriately as a basketball game, McLaughlin said. The teacher pressed himself up closely behind the female student and touched her backside, the student told McLaughlin.

"She was shaking, crying. I was really, really concerned about that student," McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin is close friends with the student's family and spoke with her mother, who said the school had already contacted Child Protective Services. That afternoon, McLaughlin visited the student's home to talk with her parents.

About two weeks later, on March 4, McLaughlin was called into a meeting with Craig, the head of the school, she said. She says he told her she was being

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